

Message Text

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12

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 SCCT-01 IO-11 /076 W

----- 087867

O 111018Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8964

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GER IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 2203

DELIVER TO NEA/ARN/DRAPER AT OPENING OF BUSINESS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJ: 0900 LEBANON REPORT

1. ALL INDICATIONS ARE SYRIANS TAKING LOCAL SECURITY SITUATION VERY SERIOUSLY. SHEHABI WAS SENT HERE FROM DAMASCUS YESTERDAY TO JOIN KHADDAM AND JAMIL, WHO STAY ON. FATAH HAS APPARENTLY BEEN ORDERED TO STOP SUPPORTING LT. KHATIB'S ALTERNATIVE ARMY AND PLA FORCES HAVE REPORTEDLY REOCCUPIED MARJAYOUN BARRACKS, WHICH WENT OVER TO KHATIB YESTERDAY, AS WELL AS RETAKING ARAMAN BARRACKS FROM MAMARI FORCES IN THE NORTH. SITUATION STILL VERY MUCH IN FLUX WITH ALL SORTS OF "LEBANESE SOLUTIONS" BEING TALKED ABOUT. FRANGIE ADVISER LUCIEN DAHDAH TOLD ACTING DCM TODAY THAT ENLARGED NEW GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN PUSHED TO THE BACK BURNER WHILE EVERYBODY CONCENTRATES ON SECURITY SITUATION. PRESS REPORTS THAT SYRIANS HAVE

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TOLD ALL CONCERNED THEY REQUIRE SOLUTION WITHIN NEXT

48 HOURS PRIOR TO ASAD-KHADDAM DEPARTURE FOR VISIT TO PARIS.

2. YESTERDAY WAS FULL OF ACTIVITY. MEETINGS OF TOP LEFT WING LEADERS UNDER JUMBLATT MOVED FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE AND INCLUDED STOPS AT FATAH AND SAIQA HEADQUARTERS. CHAMOUN AND GEMAYEL WERE WITH FRANGIE AT BAABDA AS WERE KHADDAM AND JAMIL. THERE WERE VARIOUS REPORTS OF AN ULTIMATUM BY LOYALIST ARMY LEADERS TO FRANGIE IMPLYING HE SHOULD EITHER ORDER MORE ACTIVE MEASURES AGAINST KHATIB OR RESIGN. SOME PAPERS CLAIM FRANGIE THREATENED TO RESIGN BUT WAS TALKED OUT OF IT BY FELLOW MARONITE LEADERS AND KHADDAM. PRESSURE WAS PLACED ON ARMY COMMANDER HANNA SAID BY PETITION FROM 70 LOYALIST OFFICERS, REPORTEDLY MOSLEM IN THE MAJORITY, ASKING HE REACT QUICKLY TO PREVENT DISSOLUTION OF THE ARMY AND PLEDGING THEIR SUPPORT ON THEIR OATHS AS OFFICERS. SAID HIMSELF JOINED AIR FORCE COMMANDER GHARIB IN ENCOURAGING MORE ENERGETIC MEASURES, INCLUDING A RENEWED AMNESTY TO REBELS. KARAME, FOLLOWING MORNING'S CABINET MEETING, SPOKE OF THE DANGER OF PARTITION IF ARMY WERE ALLOWED TO FALL APART. SAID HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED TO OFFER AMNESTY TO REBEL SOLDIERS WHICH WILL NOT, HOWEVER, APPLY TO OFFICERS. ACCORDING TO LUCIEN DAHDAH, CHAMOUN AND GEMAYEL ARE SUPPORTING FRANGIE IN HIS EFFORTS HELP SYRIANS BRING SITUATION UNDER CONTROL. DAHDAH EXPRESSED SUSPICION THAT JUMBLATT MAY ESCALATE HIS DEMANDS IN LIGHT OF PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES EVEN THOUGH HE HAD AGREED TO FORMATION OF 18 MAN GOVERNMENT A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO.

3. EMBASSY PERSONNEL WERE WITNESS TO ONE OF THOSE ISOLATED INCIDENTS IN BEIRUT YESTERDAY. MOSLEM FROM AIN MREISSE NEIGHBORHOOD HAVING BEEN DETAINED BY CHRISTIANS IN ANOTHER SECTOR OF TOWN, AIN MREISSE RESIDENTS WITH ASSISTANCE OF JUMBLATTIST PSP FORCES SET UP ROADBLOCKS ALONG CORNICHE ON EITHER SIDE OF EMBASSY AND ENDED UP WITH 42 MARONITE CHRISTIANS. SEVERAL ARMY APCS ARRIVED QUICKLY ON THE SCENE AND USED SEVERAL ROUNDS OF SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT MACHINE GUN FIRE TO BREAK UP THE

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ROADBLOCKS. BOTH CHRISTIAN AND MOSLEM DETAINEES WERE EVENTUALLY RELEASED. EMBASSY EMPLOYEES HAPPILY WERE WARNED AND DID NOT GET INVOLVED. RAPID AND EFFECTIVE REACTION FROM ARMY IS A NEW AND GOOD SIGN FOR LOCAL SECURITY HERE. DATT HAS BEEN TOLD THAT ARMY HAS BEEN FORMALLY GIVEN RESPONSIBILITY FOR SECURITY ALONG COASTAL AREAS OF MOST OF WESTERN BEIRUT. WE ASSUME PALESTINIAN FORCES ARE PREPARED TO BACK ARMY IF NEEDED. DESPITE

SEVERAL SUCH INCIDENTS YESTERDAY, THERE IS FAIRLY HEAVY
TRAFFIC IN BEIRUT TODAY. STILL, SITUATION IS TENSE.
LAMBRAKIS

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